

Ordonances and Instructions for Musters, to be obserued

by the Gouvernors, chiefe Officers, Captaines and Souldiers, in her Maiesties pay in the Lowe Countries, and to be put in execution by the Officers and Commisaries of the Musters resident in the Garrisons, and attendant on the Companies employed in the field: established by her Maiestie, and the Lordes of her Highnesse priue Counsaile for reformation of such disorders as are growen by lacke of discipline among her Martiall men.

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Whereas there haue bene of long time many grosse and manifest fraudes and deceites daily practised and committed by Captaines and Officers in the ordinarie viewes and musters of their bands in seruice under her Maiesties pay, who led with an inordinate desire of gaine, and preferring their profite before their honest reputation and duties towards her Maiesties seruices, haue and doe often present at the Musters, many persons borrowed and hired for one dayes pay, to serue for the time, whome (after they are shewed in the Musters) they dismisse, and retaine in demand the pay of such Passcuolantes to themselves (a kinde of theft worthe of seuerer punishment) and thereby likewise their seuerall companies are continued weake and defective, not onely to the prejudice of her Maiesties seruice, but to their owne particular shame and discredit: her Maiestie therefore desirous to reforme the same, and other like abuses and disorders in the affaires of Musters, as most necessarie for the advancement of her seruice, hath ordained and established these present Ordonances for Musters, which her pleasure is, shall be inviolably kept, maintained, and obserued, as well by the Gouvernors of the Townes and troupes where her Maiesties forces are in garrison, the chiefe Commenders of any of them drawn into seruice, as by the Officers and commisaries of the Musters respectively: which Ordonances they shall cause to be published, that none may pretend ignorance of her Maiesties pleasure and commandement therein signified.

Inprimis, the Gouvernors, Sergeant Maior, Captaines, Officers, and the Commisaries of Musters, shall in as much as may concerne euery of them in particular, and them all in generall, duly and effectually execute, obserue, and keepe the Orders established by the Queenes Maiestie, with the aduise of the Lordes, and others of her Highnesse priue Counsaile, for the Reforming of sundrie fraudes and Abuses practised in the distribution of the Im-
payments, and Apparell appointed to be deliuered to the common Souldiers in her Maiesties Pay, &c. Dated the 10. of December, 1590. and aboute all others the Commisaries shall followe and performe with all care and industrie the Directions therein contained, for the monthly viewes of the Companies in euery garrison and under their charge, and for such other obseruations concerning Musters, and perfecting of the muster Rolles and booke, with the Commisaries deputed from the generall, or Counsaile of State, as in the said orders be expressed: vpon paine to euery Commisarie, neglecting or not performing his dutie and seruice therein according to be deposed of his office, and punished by imprisonment, or otherwise, at the discretion of the Lordes and others of her Maiesties priue Counsaile.

The day before any Musters or viewes shall be taken of the Companies of euery garrison, or other place of their seruice, the Commisarie assigned to take the viewes or musters of that garrison or place, with the assistance of such Commisaries as shall be sent from the States generall, or Counsaile of State, or in case those Commisaries shall be absent, or refuse to ioyne in that seruice, then shall the English Commisarie after the shutting vp of the Gates at night, and the watch set, and not before, giue know-
the Gouvernour, Lieutenant Gouvernour, or other chiefe Commander of euery such garrison or place of the purpose, to view and muster the companies of that garrison next morning: who thereupon shall require and commaund the seuerall Captaines under their charge to haue their companies readie with their due armour and furniture at the usual and accustomed place, or at such other fit place as the Commisaries shall appoint, to be mustered by 7. of the clocke in the morning, where the Clarke of the band shall deliuer one muster roll, by the which the persons to be mustered shall be called: which roll when the Commisarie shall haue receaued, he shall deliuer to the Lieutenant Gouvernour, or chiefe Commander of the Garrison there present, and shall first call the Musters by the booke of the preceident musters and viewes. And the better to auoide the common deceits practised by the Clarkes and Officers of Companies, in procuring many of the souldiers to answer and be called by
and contrarie names, so as one man is often receaued for two persons: the Commisarie shall therefore neuer call any companie, beginning at the head of the roll, but
begin in the middell, latter end, or some other place of the said rolle, and so inuert the order and position of the names.

The Captaine or chiefe Officer that after commandement receaued, as aforesaid, shall refuse to shewe his companie, shall be forthwith deposed of his Charge, and made
capable to receaue any companie.

The Captaine or chiefe officer of any band shall present at the usual viewes and musters any artificer, victualler, proler, stragler, vagrant person or stranger, not being in
small seruice, or doing their seuerall duties in watching and warding in their garrison or other place of seruice, vpon paine to euery such artificer, victualler, proler,
or vagrant person, so offering themselves in viewes and musters, or being thereunto hyed, to be by martiall lawe hanged: and euery captaine or officer that shall
suffer to be presented any such as aforesaid, shall be deposed of his charge and office, and made incapable to take charge euer after. And for the better preventing of
fraude and disorder, the Capozalles of euery companie shall be called to the table, and sworne to discouer if any souldier shall be offered to passe in the same muster of their
companie, contrary to the purpose of this article: and euery Capozal, at the time of his repaire with any squader of his companie to the place of his watch and
shall deliuer to the Sergeant Maior, or to the Commisarie of the musters resident, a perfect rolle containing the names and number of his said squader to be there cal-
by the said rolle, and viewed (before they be disposed either in watch, ward or sentinell) by the Sergeant Maior or Commisary.

The souldier shall present at the musters, any armour, weapon or furniture but his owne, or at the least, such as hath bene deliuered vnto him by his captaine, for the
which he is to receiue satisfaction out of his pay, vpon payne of confiscation of the said armour, weapon and furniture, and imprisonment to euery souldier so offending, by the
of one moneth.

The Prouost Marechal and Sergeant Maior of euery garrison, shall keepe a perfect rolle of all such English victuallers (called in dutch Sutlers,) petimarchants, artifi-
and other loose persons of the English nation, that shall resort from time to time or continue within the garrison, or followe in the field where they haue charge, and
at all times deliuer a copie thereof to the Commisary of the musters when the same shall be demanded, and shall be present, and assist the said Commisary or officer, at
musters and reuiues to be taken, to discouer if any of them shall offer to passe in other mens names, that iustice may be done vpon them, and such as shall present them,
according to the fourth article before mentioned.

Euery Captaine coming to the place where the musters shall be appointed to be taken, shall cause his companie to march in rankes, placing therein his officers and
according to their place and qualitie, and the seuerall kindes of their weapon and furniture mentioned in the muster rolle, to be first visited and counted by the Com-
in their rankes, and after called by their names man by man, as in the former article is mentioned: and such as shall be found able with their furniture requisite,
and allowed, and the rest called and stricken out of the said rolle. The like order of marching in rankes shall be obserued at all times in the going and returning of eu-
of squader of any companie, to and from the place of their ordinary watch and warde as well in garrison as in the field, the Captaine himselfe, or his Lieute-
in his absence, going in the head of his companie, and the Sergeant in the head of the squader, so marching in distinct rankes, that a ready viewe may be taken of their
number and furniture by the Sergeant Maior, or Commisary, and vpon euery default thereof made by the captaine if he be present within the garrison, or in field,
his Lieutenant in his absence, or by the Sergeant as aforesaid, the Sergeant Maior or Commisarie shall checke the said Captaine, Lieutenant, or Sergeant, their
imprest for the weeke, wherein such default shall be made.

The muster being taken in forme aforesaid, the Commisaries for her Maiestie, with the Commisaries deputed from the States (if they shall be present) shall conferre their
of musters then taken with the copies deliuered to the Gouvernour, Lieutenant gouvernour, or chiefe Commandor as aforesaid, and thereupon the rolle made per-
the Captaine of eche companie or his Lieutenant in his absence, shall in the foote of the same, certifie that he hath presented to the Commisaries all and euery the persons
in the said rolle, which he shall subscribe with his own hand, and the Commisaries do the like in confirmation thereof: and where there shall be defect of numbers, armes,
gentlemen and musquetiers appointed to haue increase of pay out of the dead payes allowed to euery companie, or absents without passeport, or beyond the daies li-
in their passeport, the same shall be checked by the Commisaries, and the seuerall checks set downe and expressed in the booke for warrants, whereby the Treasurer or
muster may be guided for the quantitie of the pay, and defalcation of the checks.

The Commisaries of the musters shall keepe a true and exact booke or register of euery souldier that shall dye, be discharged, runne away, or be absent by passeport, no-
the day of the decease, discharge, and departure of euery such officer or souldier, and the entries of such as shall come in their places, and shall truly and faithfully check
injuries, defects and vnlawfull absences, as well of the fugitiue, dead, and runne away, as of the absent beyond the time limited in their passeports, and shall alwaies vpon
viewe and muster, make perfect his muster rolles of euery companie, mentioning in the head of the same, the day and yeere of the muster taken, and shall at the ende of
monethly musters, & his other registers of the entries, death, absences, & discharges of souldiers, he shall truly & exactly set downe the certain checks of euery companie.

The Clarke of euery band shall weeke ly visite all the sicke, impotent and vnserviceable souldiers of his companie, and shall make by a perticuler rolle of their names, and
they be lodged, to the ende the Commisarie may also weeke ly resort to the places, and see the said sicke and impotent, before he allow them in the muster roll: and

...it shall appear that the Clarke hath delivered the names of more then shalbe found, the said Commissary shall checke upon the said Clarke the money payable to him for the weeke wherein he shall so falsely certifye.

The English shalbe suffered to goe forth of his garrisons upon bootehaling or breedooring, unless it be for service in convenient numbers under the conduct of an experienced officer to be licensed by the Governour, with the ppointe of the Commissary resident, who shall take the names of the said officer and souldiers before their departure, otherwise not to be allowed their impresse for the time of their absence. And because many strangers being breedoors doe countenance themselves by means of whose companies they pretend themselves to be, although they never served or received pay of any such Captaine, living only by spoyle, raine, robbing and other such friends as enemies, contrary to justice and all good discipline: the Captaine therefore shall receive or countenance any such, though of the number allowed by hand, upon paine to be deprived of his said companie.

The Captaine shall dismisst or discharge any souldiour out of his companie without the ppointe and allowance of the Governour of the garrison where his companie shall be, or of the Lieutenant Governour, or chiefe commander of the said garrison, or the Sergeant Maior, or other principall person having the chiefe commandement of the field and the souldiour so to be discharged and dismissed, shall first be presented to the Commissary of the musters, who shall enter his discharge, and deliver to the souldiour a certificate thereof under his hand, without the which no Captaine or officer shall receive the said souldiour into their companie, upon paine of the said souldiours pay, or impresse to be weekly defailed and taken by the Paymaster, upon notice from the Commissary, out of the money delivered to the said Captaine for the weekes lending.

If any souldiour shall withpaine himselfe, or runne away from his Companie and Colours being in garrison, or in the field, and shall resort to any other garrison or service, and there offer himselfe to be enrolled in any other companie, pretending that he is but then arrived out of England: upon proofe had of his departure from his companie as aforesaid, he shall be forthwith under safe custodie conveyed and returned to his said companie, and receive such punishment for his offence, as by the lawes made in that behalf ppointed.

The Captaine whose companie shall be weake, or not complete, shall upon any supply sent out of England, or otherwise receive or admit any souldiour into his said companie, by the reinforcing thereof, but shall first present the said souldiour or souldiours to the Governour or chiefe commander of the Garrison or troupes where his companie shall be, with such armes and furniture as shall bee thought meete for the souldiour, and for service, from whence hee shall receive a warrant or billet, addressed to the Commissary for the enrolling and entering of the said souldiour or souldiours with their furniture, and their pay to beginne from the day of such entrance, and not otherwise: and for the entrie of every such souldiour, the Commissary shall receive and take of a footman iii. s. and of a horseman vi. s. sterling, and no more, and for the discharge of any souldiour shall take nothing.

The Captaine or other Officer shall give passeport to any souldiour of his companie to be absent from his actuall service in the field or garrison, but if there shall be any lawe made to licence any Officer or souldiour to repaire into England, or to any other place for any time, the same shall be by passeport of the Governour, or of the Garrison, or the chiefe Commander of the field onely, and not otherwise, and for no longer time then for 8. weekes in the whole yeere, according to the orders: and the said passeport shall not be available to the partie licensed, unless it shall be registred and entered by the Commissary of the Musters resident or attendant upon the said garrison or Company. And because many souldiours licensed by passeport to repaire into England, doe after their coming over never returne to their companies and service, who thereby increase the danger of death by speciall lawe of the Realme in that behalf ppointed, by means whereof the bandes become weakened, and her Majesties ready charged companies supplying and reinforcing the said companies: All passeports therefore that shall hereafter be given to any Officer or souldiour, after they shall be entered by the Commissary as aforesaid, shall be by the said Commissary certified to Thomas Wykes Esquire, Clerke of the Counsell, specially appointed to receive from the Commissaries their Muster bookes, expelling the place of the birth or last abode of the Officer or souldiour, & the place or places whereunto he shall purpose to resort here in England, and if they shall wilfully exceede the time limited in their passeports, due enquire may be made of them, and the offenders apprehended and punished according to the lawe.

The Governour or chiefe Commander of any garrison or of such companies as shalbe commaunded in the field or other services, shall not licence or suffer any Captaine to be absent from his companie, for any longer time then for eight weekes in the yeere, and shall not licence or suffer to be absent, above one Captaine at a time, and no more servants or souldiers if he be a knight, and but three if he be an inferior, to attend on him for the time of his absence, upon paine of her Majesties indignation, and contempt or negligence in this case to be used, to receive such reprehension, as by the discretion of the Lordes and others of her Majesties privie counsell, shall be thought he hath deserved: And neuertheless the Commissary shall checke every such Captaine, officer or souldier, as shall exceede the time limited in their severall passeports, according to the orders of the xx. of December before mentioned. And if the Captaines shall require pay for any more souldiers, as servants pretended to have bene on him in his absence, above the number limited in this Article, the same shall in no sort be allowed by the Commissary or Paymaster.

The Commissaries of the musters of each Garrison, and the rest that shall attend the dispersed companies, shall be carefull to see these instructions in every point observed, they shall take knowledge of the offences committed contrary to the same, and thereof enforce the Governour or chiefe Commander of the place where they are established, the present reformation may be had, and shall in their monthly certificates deliver the Checks imposed upon the offences committed. And if any of the said Commissaries shall compact with any Captaine, souldiour or other, to cover or conceale any Checke or default, or shall take bribe or reward to that end, or shall be known to defraud in this any way in the matter of his charge, he shall by martiall law be executed in example to all others.

An Abbreviate or Abstract of the Checks mentioned in these Ordonances, to be certified by the Commissaries of the Musters to her Maiesties behoofe, in case the causes and matters thereof shall appear vpon the viewes and Musters taken by the sayd Commissaries, and examination had of the Muster Rolles and bookes for paie.

All defects of numbers in every companie, to be checked according to the severall payes per diem, of captaines, officers, and souldiours.

All strangers above five in a foote companie of 150. and the like number of horsemen in a companie of 100. heads.

All absences of captaines, officers and souldiours without passeport, and for the dayes they shall bee absent beyond the times limited in their passeports.

The interims betweene the discharge, death or departure of any officer or souldiour, and the entrie of another in place of the discharged, dead, or departed: provided that the day of discharge of every such officer and souldiour (if none be entered the same day in his place) shall bee checked for her Majestie.

Passeports not given by the Governour or chiefe Commander of every garrison, or by the Sergeant Maior or principall officer of the field, to captaines, officers and souldiours under his charge shalbe disallowed, & the partie to whom they are granted, shalbe checked for all the time of his absence, as though he had no passeport at all.

If any passeport shall be given for longer time then is limited by the orders & ordonances before recited, the same shall not be available, and be checked accordingly.

Passeports though granted by the Governours, &c. as aforesayde, if they be not entered and kept of Record by the Commissary of Musters, shall be of no validitie, and shall be checked for the whole time mentioned in the same.

Any officer or souldiour that shall be taken into any companie by the captaine, lieutenant or chiefe officer of the same, without the billet of the Governour, &c. and without licence taken by the Commissary of the musters, shall be checked for the time of his reception into the companie, untill the day of his entrance to be taken by the Commissary.

The captaine, lieutenant or sergeant, except he be very sicke, that at every time of his repaire, to, and from the place of his watch and ward with his companie, or with any part thereof, shall not march in the head of the said companie or squader. (the same marching in ranke) shalbe checked, his whole impresse or lending for the weeke following.

The Clarke of any band that shall not truly certifye every weeke to the Commissary, the number of sicke, hurt, lame and impotent souldiours, or shall deliver more then shall be checked his whole impresse for the weeke following.

Wherefore there shall appear any double charge of officer, exceeding the number and places mentioned in the netwe establishment, or not allowed by speciall letters from the Lordes of the Counsell, or if any souldier shalbe named or shewed in rolle of musters of any other companie, then where he was first entered & enrolled in such forme as the ordonances is expressed, such officer and souldier shalbe checked.

The Captaine that shall receive into his band any souldier that hath served in any other companie not discharged with the ppointe of the Governour, or chiefe Commander of the garrison, or companie where the said souldier hath last before served, and not having the ticket or billet of the Commissary of the musters of that place, shalbe checked for the monthes pay, to be taken out of his weekly impresse as aforesaid.

Any officer or souldier that without the licence of the Governour or chiefe Commander of any garrison, and without the ppointe of the Commissary, shall depart out of the garrison upon bootehaling or breedooring, shalbe checked for the time of his continuance abroad.

God save the Queene.